

Message Text

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42

ACTION H-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (HUNTER, ROBERT)

SUBJ: STAFFDEL HUNTER: ECONOMIC ASPECTS

REF: STATE 223829

1. DURING SEPTEMBER 23-24 VISIT TO LISBON, SENATOR KENNEDY'S FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR ROBERT HUNTER MET WITH VICTOR CONSTANCIO, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND BUDGET, AND WITH MEDEIROS FERREIRA, WHO EXPECTS TO BE NAMED SOON AS A SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

2. DURING DISCUSSION WITH HUNTER AND ECONOMIC COUNSELOR, CONSTANCIO STATED THAT MAJOR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ARE IN THE CONSTRUCTION, AGRICULTURAL AND EXTERNAL SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY. UNEMPLOYMENT HAS REACHED SIGNIFICANT PROPORTIONS WHICH, DESPITE FUTURE GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY, PROBABLY CANNOT BE REDUCED SUBSTANTIALLY OVER THE SHORT TERM. CONSTANCIO EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR PROMPT, SUBSTANTIAL FOREIGN ASSISTANCE IN ORDER TO PERMIT PORTUGAL ADOPT REFLUTIONARY POLICIES AND TO BRIDGE ITS CURRENT SHORTAGE OF LIQUID FOREIGN RESERVES. HE ADMITTED THAT RELATIVELY LITTLE PLANNING HAS BEEN COMPLETED. AID REQUESTS WILL THEREFORE HAVE TO BE BASED ON RATHER GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY INTENTIONS AND LIMITED DETAIL FOR INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS. HE URGED GREATEST POSSIBLE SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION FROM U.S. AND EUROPEANS.

3. MEDEIROS FERREIRA EXPRESSED REPEATEDLY HIS AND SOCIALIST PARTY'S APPRECIATION FOR SENATOR KENNEDY'S EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT FOR PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION. FERREIRA ALSO

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EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR IMMEDIATE, SUBSTANTIAL FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.

ALTHOUGH HE EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT, HE
SIMULTANEOUSLY EXPRESSED A HOPE THAT USG AND U.S. PRIVATE SEC-
TORS WOULD UNDERTAKE ADDITIONAL STEPS TO DEMONSTRATE SUPPORT
FOR PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION. HE CITED, FOR EXAMPLE, THE POSSI-
BILITY OF MORE INVITATIONS TO VISIT THE U.S., CONTINUED EX-
PRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FROM NOTED AMERICAN STATESMEN, AND GREATER
COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND SUCH U.S. PRIVATE SECTOR
INSTITUTIONS AS THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT.
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